



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Bureau of County Transportation

1409 Coliseum Blvd., Montgomery, Alabama 36110-2060

Phone: (334) 242-6206 FAX: (334) 353-6530

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Bob Riley
Governor

Joe McInnes
Transportation Director

September 17, 2008

MEMORANDUM 2008-22

**TO: ALL COUNTY ENGINEERS AND DIVISION COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS**

FROM:

**D. E. Phillips, Jr., P.E.
State County Transportation Engineer**

RE: New Guidelines for Operation – Bridge Inspection

Please find attached the new Guidelines for Operation regarding bridge inspection for grading.

DEP: JDH: adj
Attachment
Pc: Mr. Robert King, FHWA
File



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maintenance Bureau, 1409 Coliseum Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama 36110

Phone: (334) 242-6272 FAX: (334) 242-6378



Bob Riley
Governor

Joe McInnes
Transportation Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 10, 2008

To: Division Engineers
Bureau Chiefs

From:


George H. Conner, PE
State Maintenance Engineer

Re: Guidelines For Operation – Bridge Inspection

Please find attached new **Guidelines For Operation** regarding bridge inspection and grading. The following new Guidelines were effective on September 9, 2008 and replaced the previous guidelines dated 10/93 or earlier. The replaced Guidelines are no longer valid.

Guidelines For Operation 5-18.1	Interim Inspection on Bridges
Guidelines For Operation 5-19	Deck, Superstructure, Substructure, Culvert or Channel Condition Grade of 1 or 2
Guidelines For Operation 5-20	Deck, Superstructure, Substructure, Culvert or Channel Condition Grade of 3
Guidelines For Operation 5-21	Deck, Superstructure, Substructure or Culvert Condition Grade of 4
Guidelines For Operation 5-22	Authority to Close Bridge

We respectfully request County Transportation Bureau to forward this information to all counties. We also request each Division to forward this information to each municipal bridge owner within the respective division jurisdiction.

GHC/sng

Attach

Cc: Mr. Steve Walker/Design Bureau
Mr. Stacey Glass/Maintenance Bureau

Mr. Eric Christie/Maintenance Bureau
Mr. Jim Bearrentine/Maintenance Bureau

File

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION

SUBJECT: INTERIM INSPECTIONS ON BRIDGES

An interim inspection is defined as an inspection at least every 12 months; or more often if deemed necessary by the owner's bridge inspector, the Emergency Bridge Inspection team, or the appropriate Guideline for Operation. An interim inspection must be thorough enough to determine the condition of the bridge but may otherwise be limited to an inspection and review of the elements and/or components of the bridge which originally required the interim inspection.

In order for the Department to conform to the requirements set forth in the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) and FHWA guidelines, the Department's Guidelines for Operation require that bridges which fall into any of the following categories must be reported immediately to the Maintenance Bureau and must have interim inspections.

- a) bridges with condition grade of 4 or less for the deck, superstructure, substructure or culvert.
- b) bridge with condition grade of 3 or less for channel condition or waterway adequacy.
- c) bridges which are posted.

The above requirements are effective immediately for all bridges requiring interim inspections.

RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL: 
BUREAU CHIEF/DIVISION ENGINEER

APPROVAL: 
CHIEF ENGINEER

APPROVAL: 
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

9.9.2008
DATE

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION

SUBJECT: DECK, SUPERSTRUCTURE, SUBSTRUCTURE, CULVERT OR
CHANNEL CONDITION GRADE OF 1 OR 2

Any bridge with a deck, superstructure, substructure, culvert or channel condition grade of 1 or 2 shall be closed. In the case of a deck, superstructure, substructure, culvert or channel with a condition grade of 1 or 2 the Division must notify the Maintenance Bureau, the County must notify County Transportation Bureau and the Municipality must notify the division bridge inspector. Before the bridge can be re-opened to traffic, the owner must have a professional review to determine if the bridge must remain closed or if the bridge may be re-opened to traffic with a three ton gross load limit and with interim inspections at least every 30 days. Upon request, the Emergency Bridge Inspection Team may be available to perform the review. The bridge owner must submit in writing to their respective contacts listed above, its recommendations for correcting the deficiencies.

The above requirements are effective immediately for all bridges with a deck, superstructure, substructure, culvert or channel condition grade of 1 or 2.

RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL:


BUREAU CHIEF/DIVISION ENGINEER

APPROVAL:


CHIEF ENGINEER

APPROVAL:


TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR


DATE

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION

SUBJECT: DECK, SUPERSTRUCTURE, SUBSTRUCTURE, CULVERT OR
CHANNEL CONDITION GRADE OF 3

Any bridge with a deck, superstructure, substructure, culvert or channel condition grade of 3 **shall** be posted for a three ton gross load limit. In the case of a deck, superstructure, substructure, culvert or channel with a condition grade of 3 the Division **must** notify the Maintenance Bureau, the County **must** notify County Transportation Bureau and the Municipality **must** notify the division bridge inspector. If the bridge is load posted, then it **must** have an interim inspection at least every 90 days, or more often if deemed necessary by the owner's bridge inspector. Any exception to the 3 Ton load posting **must** have a professional review to determine the load-carrying capacity and the appropriate interim inspection frequency, not to exceed 90 days. Upon request, the Emergency Bridge Inspection team **may** be available to perform the professional review. The bridge owner **must** submit in writing to their respective contacts listed above, its recommendations for correcting the deficiencies.

The above requirements are effective immediately for all bridges with a deck, superstructure, substructure, culvert or channel condition grade of 3.

RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL: _____


BUREAU CHIEF/DIVISION ENGINEER

APPROVAL: _____


CHIEF ENGINEER

APPROVAL: _____


TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

9.9.2008
DATE

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION

SUBJECT: DECK, SUPERSTRUCTURE, SUBSTRUCTURE OR CULVERT
CONDITION GRADE OF 4

Any bridge with a deck, superstructure, substructure or culvert condition grade of 4 **shall** be load rated to determine the load carrying capacity. In the case of a deck, superstructure, substructure or culvert with a condition grade of 4 the Division **must** notify the Maintenance Bureau, the County **must** notify County Transportation Bureau and the Municipality **must** notify the division bridge inspector. The deck, superstructure, substructure or culvert **must** be load rated within 6 months of the date of inspection which revealed the condition grade of 4, and it **must** be placed on a maximum of 12 month interim inspection. If the structure has not been load rated or had a professional review within six months, then the bridge **must** be gross load posted for one-half of its design operating rating and **must** have an interim inspection at least every 12 months, or more often if deemed necessary by the owner's bridge inspector. A professional review **may** determine the priority for load rating the structure and for the appropriate level of gross load posting. Upon request, the Emergency Bridge Inspection team **may** be available to perform this review. The bridge owner **must** submit in writing to their respective contacts listed above, its recommendations for correcting the deficiencies.

Where the deck, superstructure, substructure or culvert is load rated, the bridge shall be load posted for the least rating.

RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL:


BUREAU CHIEF/DIVISION ENGINEER

APPROVAL:


CHIEF ENGINEER

APPROVAL:


TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

9.9.2008
DATE

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION

SUBJECT: AUTHORITY TO CLOSE BRIDGE

Bridge inspectors qualified under the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) for certification **shall** have the authority to close any bridge, which in the opinion of the inspector, presents a clear and immediate danger to the safety of the traveling public.

The bridge closing **may** be immediate in that all traffic is stopped, re-routed, or detoured with little or no notice. If safety and circumstances permit, the closing **may** be planned so that signing and other provisions are completed before the bridge is closed.

As soon as possible after the decision has been made to close the bridge, the bridge inspector **shall** notify both the appropriate local authorities (division, county, city, etc.) and the Maintenance Bureau. The Maintenance Bureau **shall** also be notified as to the time, date, and reason for closing the bridge.

Upon request, the Emergency Bridge Inspection Team **shall** review the circumstances concerning the bridge closing in order to determine if the bridge should remain closed and to consider any other relative information.

The above requirements are effective immediately.

RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL:


BUREAU CHIEF/DIVISION ENGINEER

APPROVAL:


CHIEF ENGINEER

APPROVAL:


TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

9.9.2008
DATE